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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6409th meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 October 2010, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and statements of its President which underscore the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant statutes of the regional organizations.

"The Security Council reiterates its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security, and recalls that cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and consistent with chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations can improve collective security.

"The Security Council welcomes the continuing important efforts and enhanced peacekeeping role of the African Union and its sub-regional organisations, consistent with Security Council resolutions and decisions, to prevent, mediate and settle conflicts in the African continent, and, taking into account the increasing importance of conflict prevention, notes with appreciation the positive efforts made towards peace and security in Africa.

"The Security Council recognizes that in deploying peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, the African Union is contributing towards maintenance of international peace and security, in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council recalls the Statement of its President (S/PRST/2009/26) in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on United Nations support to the African Union when it undertakes peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations, following his report (A/64/359-S/2009/470) which detailed ways in which effective support could be provided by the United Nations, including an assessment of the recommendations contained in the Report of the African Union-United Nations Panel (A/63/666-S/2008/813).

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"The Security Council welcomes the progress report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/ 2010/514).

"The Security Council reaffirms the importance of and its commitment to strengthening its partnership with the African Union Peace and Security Council, consistent with Chapter VIII, through reviewing the degree of cooperation between them with regard to conflict prevention, resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, including the maintenance of constitutional order, the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Africa, as stressed in the communiqués of their members including that of July 09, 2010 (S/2010/392).

"The Security Council reiterates the need for further enhancement of regular interaction, coordination, and consultation between the United Nations and the African Union on matters of mutual interest. The Security Council welcomes, in this regard, the inaugural meeting of the joint United Nations-African Union task force on peace and security held on September 25, 2010 and encourages the task force to focus on strategic and country-specific issues on the continent of interest to both organizations.

"The Security Council welcomes the establishment, on July 01 2010, of the United Nations Office to the African Union which integrates the mandates of the former Liaison Office, the Peacekeeping Support Team, the Planning Team for AMISOM, as well as the support elements of UNAMID Joint Coordination Mechanism as a concrete step in the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission.

"The Security Council underscores the importance of expediting the implementation, in close consultation with other international partners, of the 2006 United Nations-African Union Ten-year Capacity-Building Program for the African Union mainly focusing on peace and security, in particular the operationalization of the African Union Standby Force and the continental early warning system. The Security Council supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture and reiterates its call for the international community, particularly the donors, to fulfill their commitments as endorsed by the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

"The Security Council reiterates that regional organisations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organisations, including through contributions by their members and support from partners. The Council welcomes the valuable financial support provided by the African Union's partners towards its peacekeeping operations including through the African Peace Facility, and calls upon all partners to render more support.

"The Security Council reaffirms its resolution 1809 (2008) which recognizes the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate.

"The Security Council notes the Secretary-General's observation in his report that while the African Union is taking critical measures to enhance its institutional capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations with the support of

United Nations and key partners, the issue of securing sustainable, predictable, and flexible financing remains a key challenge. The Security Council expresses its determination to continue working, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter, towards a more predictable and sustainable solution to these funding challenges.

"The Security Council notes the continuing efforts by the African Union to enhance its institutional capacity to enable it to effectively plan, manage, and deploy peacekeeping operations.

"The Security Council, in this regard, calls upon the African Union to work towards implementation of a long-term and comprehensive capacity-building strategic framework in consultation with the United Nations and other international partners.

"The Security Council notes the Secretary-General's intention to submit a report within six months which will, *inter alia*, define the United Nation's Secretariat strategic vision for UN-AU cooperation in peace and security. The Council looks forward to this report which should take into account the lessons learned from the various experiences particularly in UNAMID and AMISOM."